

Session 4A — Writing Practice Test

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS: WRITING — SESSION 4A

In this practice session you will write a persuasive/argumentative response to the prompt on the next page.

Use the guidelines below to help you write.

Writing Guidelines

Idea/Topic Development (Stylistic and Rhetorical Aspects of Writing)

The degree to which the persuasive/argumentative response

- addresses the prompt,
- identifies a clear position,
- develops a logical and coherent argument,
- makes connections between and among supporting evidence,
- acknowledges or refutes an opposing position,
- is focused,
- is clearly and logically sequenced,
- uses language that is convincing,
- uses a variety of transitional devices, and
- includes a variety of sentence structures and lengths.

Correct use of English (Standard English Conventions)

As you produce your final draft, check for correct

- sentence structure,
- grammar and word usage, and
- capitalization, punctuation, and spelling.

You are encouraged to use paper supplied by your teacher to plan your response in a way that is helpful to you. If you write a rough draft, be sure to leave enough time to write the final draft in your practice test answer booklet. You **MUST** fit your response in the space provided on pages 9 through 12 of your practice test answer booklet.

Before you begin to write, please read the information and prompt on the next page carefully.

PLEASE GO ON ➡

Write a persuasive/argumentative essay in which you argue for or against the following idea. Your essay should include

- evidence that supports your argument,
- acknowledgment of a potential opposing view, and
- some of the facts in the table below to help support your argument. Use these facts as you write the essay in your own words.

REMINDER: A well-developed essay must include your argument supported by facts from the list below. You may also include evidence based on your own experience.

WRITING PROMPT

Rather than maintaining separate teams for boys' and girls' sports, a high school is considering combining teams and having a completely coed sports program.

| Reasons in support of coed teams | Reasons against coed teams |
|---|--|
| <p>Thirty years ago only 12% of high school athletes were girls. Today 41.5% of high school athletes are girls. Many more girls are now participating in sports. American Association of University Women</p> | <p>In general, coaches don't understand differences in coaching girls. This is frustrating for players and coaches. One difference is <i>communication</i>. 11.4% of girls and 6.1% of boys say their coach's ability to communicate with them affects how much they enjoy being on a team. Dr. Craig Stewart Department of Health & Human Development Montana State University</p> |
| <p>Before adolescence, boys and girls are practically equal in height, weight, strength, and endurance. Sally S. Harris, M.D. MHP Palo Alto Medical Foundation</p> | <p>Winning is not as important to girls as giving every player a chance to play. Boys are more likely to want to "win at any cost." 42% of boys and 18% of girls get very upset when their teams lose. Mary Healy Jonas "Do Boys and Girls View Competition in Different Ways?"</p> |
| <p>The law says it is unjust and unfair to assume that girls cannot be included on boys' teams because they are not as strong or athletic as boys. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972</p> | <p>At adolescence, around the age of 11 or 12, boys develop more muscle mass per unit volume of body mass than do girls. Women's Sports Foundation</p> |
| <p>Coed sports teams would save money and resources. In 2005, teams at Essex High School in Vermont made 260 trips for athletic events. The school spent \$8,000 more than the \$60,000 budgeted to cover travel for varsity and freshman teams. Burlington Free Press</p> | <p>A report on high school athletics in Massachusetts found that there is a problem with harassment of girls who play on boys' teams. Harvard School of Public Health (HPRC)</p> |
| <p>It is already true that girls and boys are playing together on teams. Girls play on football teams with boys at high schools in Texas where there are not enough boys to fill positions. Associated Press Sports</p> | <p>Civil rights lawsuits guarantee girls equal opportunities in high school sports, and today there are teams for girls in many different sports. The Philadelphia Inquirer</p> |

